

BRIGHTON VOICE

No 21

Community Paper

6p

A BLOW FOR LEGAL RIGHTS

AT LAST! SAY LAWYERS, CLAIMANTS, TENANTS, SOCIAL WORKERS

After a year's efforts in the face of long standing opposition Brighton finally gets its own Rights Centre on the lines of the Law Centres that have been such a success in other parts of the country.

An important new venture in the town opens up in the next week or so. The Brighton Rights Centre will offer advice and help on all manner of legal, welfare and housing problems through a shop and telephone service. It is hoped it will also form a focus for community groups and self-help efforts in the town.

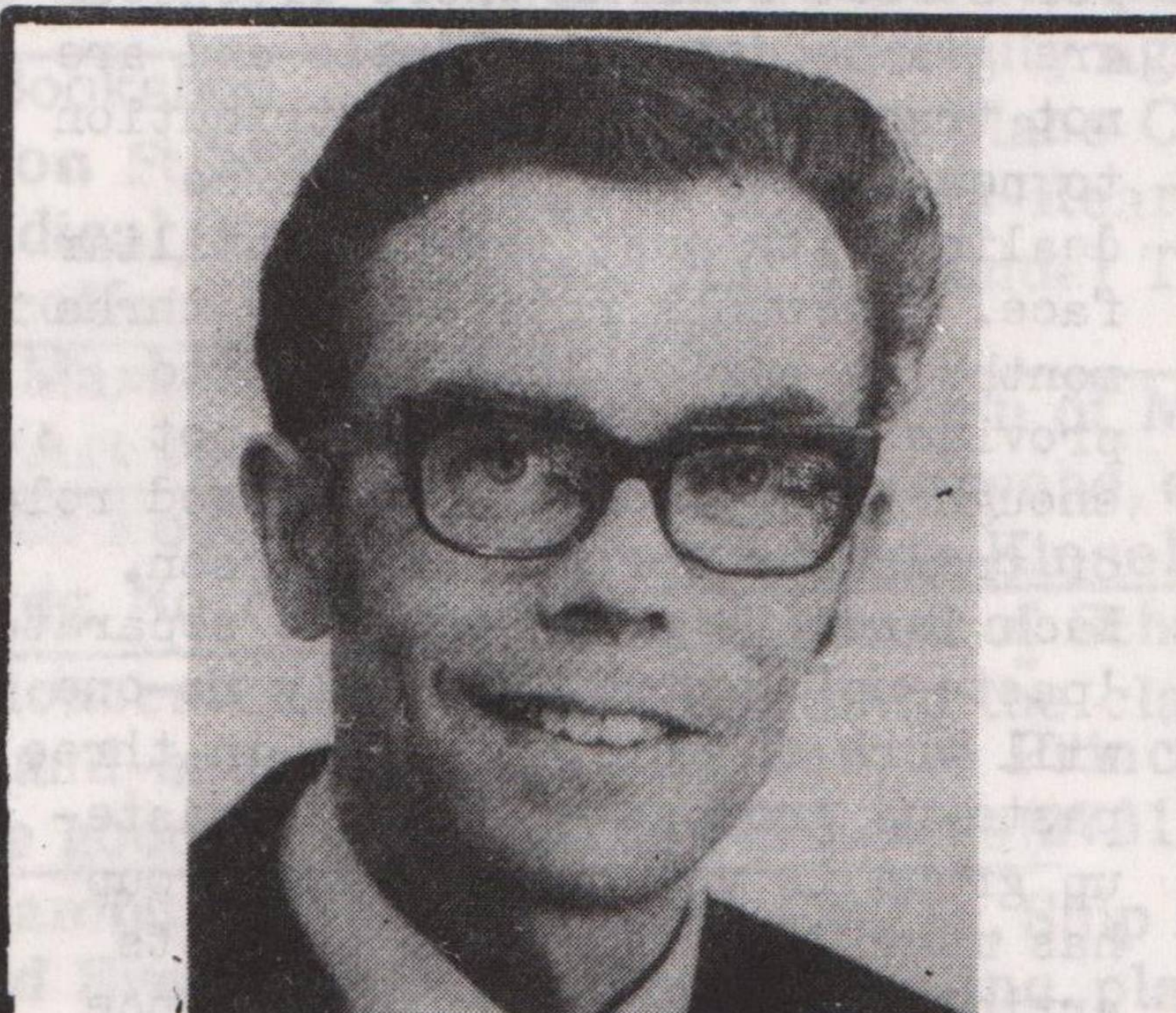
To be a success it needs volunteers and wide support. On 4. th/February at the Centre at 2, Prince Albert Street there is a meeting to which everyone is invited who is interested in being involved in the work of the Centre or would like to contribute ideas for extending its activities. Until 17th February the Centre can be contacted through Open Cafe or the Voice. After then, come in and see us at 2, Prince Albert Street (near the Town Hall) - either to help us or pose a problem.

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BRIGHTON'S GREAT NOW
- SINCE WE HAD THE
REVOLUTION

First articles in a series describing how we'd like Brighton to be but IT WILL TAKE A REVOLUTION to get it



We are unhappy to record the recent death of Bill Adams, Labour Councillor for Pier Ward, Chairman of the Kemptown Labour Party, comrade and friend. His death induces real regret and a sense of loss; the town has lost a man who gave scrupulous attention and active personal concern to many people, who worked unsparingly and with a sense of outrage not simply to ameliorate particular problems within Pier Ward but towards social justice, amidst the petty blusterings, machinations and self-interest of certain other Councillors of both parties. We shall miss his political maturity; to his relatives and those who knew him well we extend sincere sympathy.

B.A.T.MAN - their shape of schemes to come

EVEN Brighton Council doesn't like the B. A.T. Man proposals, The amazing, and worrying, part is that they were advanced as serious proposals. Notice, the choice we are offered over the plans is not whether or not to accept them, but just in what order they are to come. Once again bureaucrats locked in their offices try to tell us what they think we ought to want. Once again they commit the crime of putting property and possessions before people. In the Voice we recap the glaring faults that the scheme is riddled with and put the record straight: People come first, people must always come first. (see page 3)

MY SUCCESS

Tracy Horgan has finally won her two year battle with Hove Housing Dept. In this issue of the Voice she gives her own account of her struggle for a home for her two children and herself. (page 6.)

THE WAY WE WORK

In a society like ours where there is so much to criticise you run the risk of being accused of just being negative - as we have been. So, in this issue we feature our own ideas about how we would like Brighton to be and we thought we'd take the opportunity to expand our usual few lines of introduction and explain in more detail what a 'collective' means, how we try to make it work, why it is in the particular form it is and how successful it is in achieving its objectives.

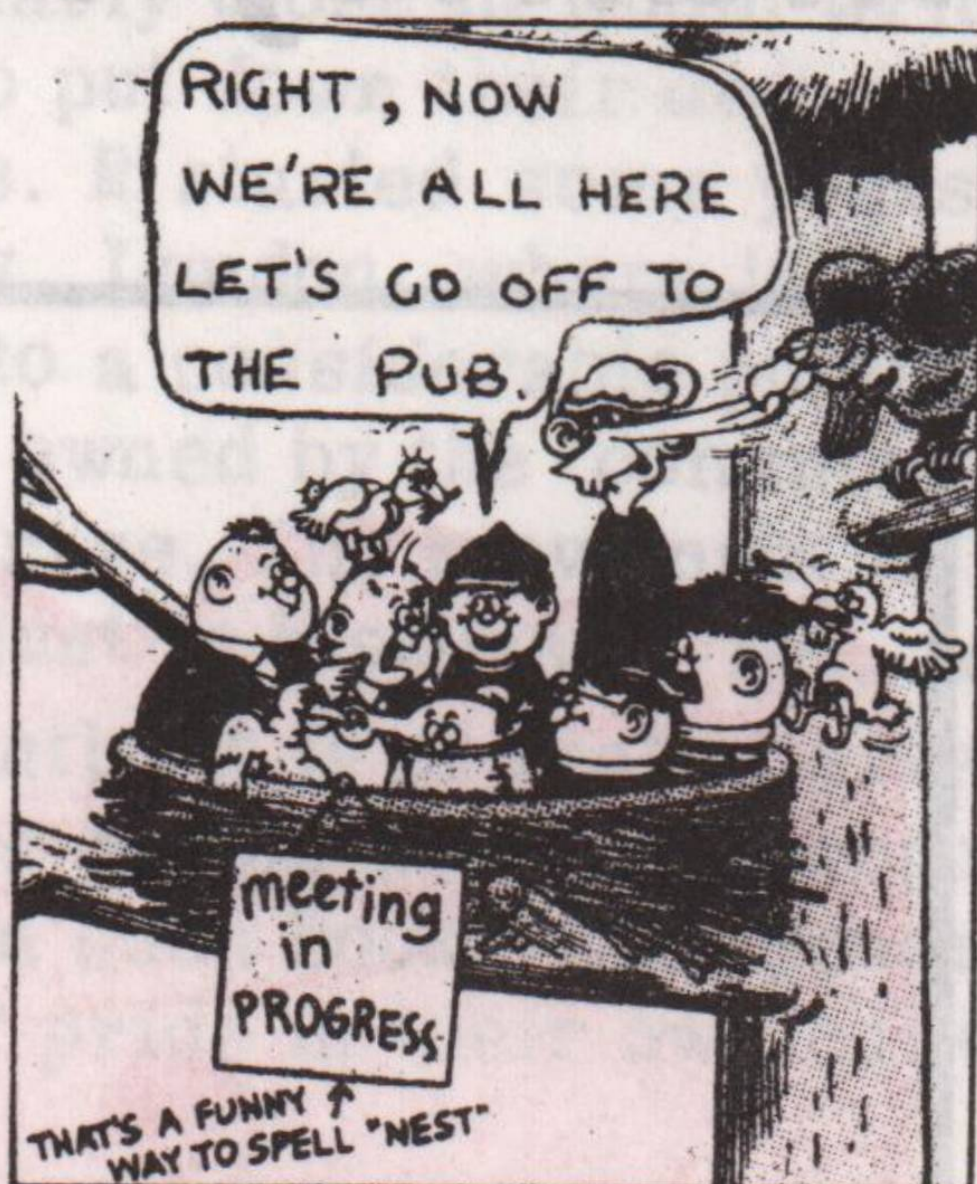
The collective is a group of 'Brightonians' whose full time jobs range from factory workers to Local Government officials and who spend a lot of their spare time producing a newspaper for Brighton. We don't think that you have to be a professional journalist to write a paper or a recognised 'expert' in a particular field to talk sense about it.

We have articles and discussion on law, housing, education, police, jobs etc because they are important aspects in the lives of the majority of people in this town - more important, we think, than fetes, football, mayors and raffles; these are already adequately covered by the Argus which somehow seems to have overlooked the former subjects.

We oppose authoritarianism from left or right. We believe this to produce the intolerable social orders and personal characteristics we have in our society - especially in the economic, educational, judicial and moral systems we have now. We have been accused of indulging in personal attacks on police, landlords etc but it is the antisocial roles they adopt and the antisocial and pernicious characteristics they pick up that we attack.

In our group we all have an equal say and the opportunity to do any job concerned with the paper. This means that anyone can come along to meetings and join the group and be on an equal footing with everyone

else, you are all members of the collective. All decisions are made by the whole group present at the open Sunday meetings and disagreements are similarly discussed and hopefully resolved. If the problem isn't resolved those concerned can



Collective decision making on the Voice.

either carry on and have another talk later or when fundamental issues are at stake then those people can leave the group. No-one is ordered to leave, it is a personal decision - unless, of course, someone is trying to take command of the group. If that happened those concerned would be told to go off, start their own group and lead that.

Participation is the name of the game and all work is rotated, except for street selling where licences are granted to individuals and are not transferable, and distribution to newsagents who prefer to be dealing with just the one familiar face. Accounts rotate every three months, a period long enough to provide some continuity but not enough to produce a specialised role of treasurer for any one person. Each issue is produced by a separate 'paste-up' group. Normally no-one will work on more than one in three paste-up groups. Joining a paste-up group is voluntary. The group has many jobs, first it collects articles from contributors. Once any article is handed to the group it becomes collectively owned by the whole Voice collective. Most important is its responsibility to ensure that all articles and sheets

are presented to the whole collective for inspection, comment and criticism, especially in the case of dubious material. Then the paste-up group edits, types, selects graphics, designs layouts and headlines and proofreads. It is also the paste-up group's responsibility to ensure that any editing is checked and approved by the writer whenever possible and by the whole collective too. Once we have printed the individual sheets it is often the paste-up group who buckle down to the long and tedious task of folding the paper and counting the copies. Then another group takes over for the next issue.

Central to the production of the Voice are the open Sunday meetings where every aspect of the paper is discussed and where articles and accounts etc should be brought for inspection by any member of the collective.

The aim is to keep the group as open as possible; it is by no means a perfect system. Misunderstandings and absences often result because no-one lays down rules or demands attendance. Other problems can be caused by the chronic, problematical questions which consume inordinate amounts of time at meetings. For instance finance; we publish a summary of our accounts to demonstrate our need to raise the price of the Voice. Though we have managed to stay at 5p for a year and have for some time been relying on donations to pay the bills when copies are left unsold or are stolen from bookstands - our profit margin is non-existent, no-one makes a penny writing for the Voice - yet the proposal for raising the price has been constantly raised and rejected, until now, for the past six months.

But far and away our major problem is that the group is too small to do all the work and produce the sort of paper we would like. Only you, the great 'silent majority' of our collective can remedy this. So, come along to meetings, write in, take part - after all, the paper belongs to all of us.

SORRY, BUT WE HAD TO DO IT

This month we had to raise the price of the Voice to 6p - we really needed 7p. During the year we managed to stay at 5p costs have risen and the necessary margin for rent, returns, materials and shop commissions has disappeared. Shop commissions have been a stumbling block because after this commission has been paid copies

sold through newsagents do not cover their costs. A large proportion of our sales do come this way now.

We are trying our best to increase personal sales; they keep the paper lively, in touch with people and also financially buoyant. But we do need more sales and subscriptions all round. Why not help us

sell the Voice! If you can, take out a subscription (just to encourage you this will still be at 5p per issue though the total cost has to go up to £1.25p due to increases in postage) which is a real help to us.

With increasing sales we can keep our prices down and the paper vigorous.

B.A.T.M.A.N

Brighton Area Traffic Management Study

On 12th December last, East Sussex's ever resourceful planning department sprang upon us yet another example of their conception of public participation in planning. In keeping with the trendy image of the new authority they have given it a real zap-bang-pow title: BATMAN, which stands for Brighton Area Traffic Management Study. The brains behind the whole concoction is County Engineer, Dennis Charnock.

It's a ripe one, Dennis; half a million spent on the survey - at the same time essential services in the town are being cut back - and what do we get?

At first glance the proposals seem almost too good to be true. Here, one thinks, are all the goodies we have been waiting so long for; pedestrian streets, bus lanes, discouraging private cars, and so on. However, when you look more closely and read the small print the picture is no longer so rosy.

It's the sort of plan that was tried in the 60's and it was a failure then.

The main feature isn't any of the above goodies, it is a vast complex of one way streets out of all proportion to the needs of Brighton. It seems to be deliberately designed to create ideal conditions for drag racing between traffic lights. We already have a few such race tracks: Grand Parade where the boy racers compete with each other to see how near they can get to pedestrians without actually hitting them. Or listen to the screeching of the traffic round the corner from Stanford Avenue.

The bus lanes, which seem such a good idea, are in fact no more than the minimum necessary to stop all the buses disappearing up their own exhaust pipes in the maze of one way streets. The rest is merely an unrelated hotch potch of half hearted ideas. Sure, pedestrian streets are a good idea, but why such a pathetically small number? Why do we have to give up the Western Road scheme for at least a year if we are to have St. James Street closed? In the preamble to the scheme they mention the policy of restraint on private transport; but in the detailed proposals they suggest encouraging people to bring cars into the town by making parking short term.

For the illustrious County Engineer's assistance - and he needs some - let's spell out the proper picture.

- 1) A town is a collection of people first and foremost.
- 2) Other facilities such as transport and shops ought to be situated according to people's needs, not vice-versa.

- 3) It is access for ordinary people that is important, not the mobility of the 16% of car owners.
- 4) People and heavy traffic supply do not go together.
- 5) Brightonians have unequivocally said they want car restraint.
- 6) Car restraint means you create a situation that discourages motorists from coming into town.
- 7) Car restraint means fewer cars in the town - and not faster ones - and that means in the whole town.
- 8) Car restraint does NOT mean a small central core of pretty, pretty streets surrounded by a circle of roaring, traffic-filled roads cutting off the outer ring of the town.
- 9) Car restraint does NOT mean one way race-tracks, even when you put in extra pelican crossings for the beleaguered pedestrian.

Other towns, such as Oxford, have shown that massive pedestrianisation schemes for central, major streets can improve a town, keep the traders happy (and shops are important to the atmosphere of a town even if we are not enthusiastic about keeping up traders' profits), will greatly improve the bus services and does not infuriate motorists. The Oxford 'park-and-ride' scheme is a huge success. And it isn't a 'park-and-walk' scheme as Brighton Council keeps pushing. The parking is two miles away from the town centre.

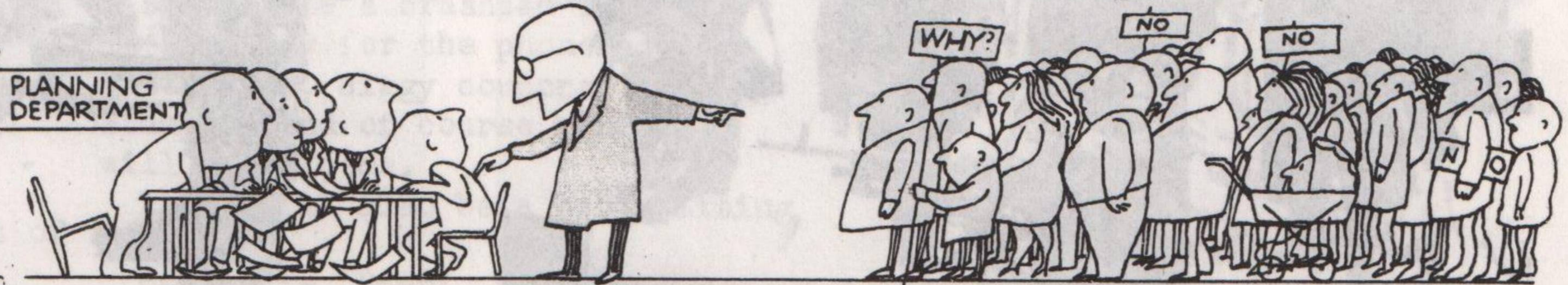
BATMAN includes twelve proposed measures. Four of these (numbers 1,2,8 & 10 if you have a copy of the BATMAN pamphlet handy) are bad for the reasons given. Yet these four are the crucial ones as far as Charnock's proposals go. There are many other problems which BATMAN will only make worse - for example the cyclist's life would be even more nightmarish.

It all seems such a mess that that one becomes mystified by the self contradictory confusion of it all, until, upon studying "option C" the light begins to dawn. Could it possibly be, one thinks, that this is the real proposal and that all the rest is merely a smoke screen? for what is this option but the resurrection once again of the many times proposed, and rejected LONDON ROAD ONE WAY SCHEME -

This time slightly modified by a bus lane. This is the fifth time that this has been brought up since its inception in 1969, each time there has been an outcry and it has been dropped.

To make it clear that we in Brighton don't want cars just shifted from one part of the town to another - and rather make it clear that we just don't want so many cars in the town - in any future plans of a similar nature that he may have the temerity to advance, here's his address; why not drop him a line to let him know just how we ALL feel about his plans - just in case he still hasn't got the message.

D. B. Charnock, B.Eng, F.I.C.E.
County Engineer,
East Sussex County Council,
Southover Rd.,
Lewes, Sussex.



EAST SUSSEX STRUCTURED

And whilst we're on the subject of planning, East Sussex County Council are about to foist their structure Plan onto us. This plan which covers the whole of East Sussex, but has special section on the Brighton and Hove areas, will be published for our comments in early February. The County Council's planners are willing to come and talk to groups of interested people about the

Structure Plan, if your local group residents association, club or school would like to meet a planner "live" you can write to Andrew Thorburn, County Planning Officer, 182 High Street, Lewes, Tel: LEWES 5400 extension 644, and he'll be able to help.

The next issue of Brighton Voice will contain a detailed analysis of the Structure Plan proposals for Brighton and Hove - look out for it.

FEAR TO THE GROUND



BUMBLEDOM BOOBIES BOOST BACKLOG

This year the Mayor inspected the G.P.O. Parcel Sorting Office, off Church Road, Brighton during the 'Christmas Rush'. It is our belief that 'His Worship' had no desire to interfere with people who work productively for a living and so the visit was arranged for a quiet day. This was no good for Bumbledom at all. So, three hours before the Mayor was due, all work stopped. As he approached someone rang a bell and everyone sprang into action-so that as the Mayor came in he could see the sorters frantically trying to clear the backlog of parcels that had been allowed to accumulate.

GOD ARREST YE MERRY GENTLEMAN!

Once again our loving local constabulary demonstrate their humanity and tact. Observed by our jovial local correspondent two days before Christmas, the gentle boys in blue, busting up a massive sponsored Christmas carol singing marathon; Shelter being the main beneficiary. No-one was arrested, but many people had an enjoyable day ruined and a very worthwhile charity lost a lot of money.

SCHOOLS RUSH IN WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD DEPT.

Readers concerned by our recent photograph of Fairlight School with its stupid sign ordering parents to keep out will no doubt be relieved to hear that the offending plaque has been removed since we printed the picture-wonder if there's any connection?



Remember folks, the price is going up again soon.

WAR GAMES IN CHURCHILL SQUARE

On Monday 9th. December, the Queen's Regiment (stationed in Preston Barracks) occupied part of Churchill Square. Some people stared in disbelief at the machine-gun emplacement. Others chatted with the armed soldiers who were very friendly to those who approached them. The children played with the guns on display as if they were no more than toys, while their parents watched on.



"The kids really enjoy it all". the soldier with the handlebar moustache told me, as he helped a toddler aim the machine gun at the shoppers, "but we don't encourage photographers," he added as I openly used my camera. The macabre fact was that the kids really were having the time of their life and the army was capitalising on their

innocence. Two months ago the army tried to sell itself to school leavers at the Careers Fair (Voice 19). Now it stoops lower by aiming its sights at even children who are in no position to distinguish fact from propaganda. Presumably the army is working on the principle 'If you get them young you've got them for life.'

It is vitally important to balance the army's recruitment propaganda, with a counter campaign so kids have the opportunity of objectively evaluating the advantage and disadvantage of joining the army for themselves. Anyone interested in helping the Anti Recruitment Campaign should contact:-

Tony Ambrose,
27, Bedford Square.

5 pier today, gone tomorrow

Mr. Harold Poster is the chairman of A.V.P. Industries Ltd., a company which owns a substantial amount of property in Brighton, including both the Metropole and Bedford Hotels and the West Pier.

The Evening Argus of 15.9.71 quotes the remarks of a spokesman for A.V.P. Industries Ltd.;

"Mr. Poster is always anxious to preserve anything that is an amenity to Brighton."

The Brighton West Pier Act of 1890 states in clause 36:

"36. If a work constructed by the Company on in over through or across tidal lands or in tidal water is abandoned or suffered to fall into decay the Board of Trade may abate and remove the work or any part of it and restore the site thereof to its former condition at the expense of the Company and the amount of such expense shall be a debt due from the Company to the Crown and be recoverable accordingly with costs or the same may be recovered with costs as a penalty is recoverable from the Company."

It is, however, evident to anyone who has been on the West Pier in recent years that, despite much discussion and argy-bargy, little, if anything, has been done to prevent parts of the Pier from being "abandoned" or...suffered to fall into decay.

A.V.P. Industries have made an apparently unanimous offer: the sale of the West Pier to the Council for £1, plus subsequent financial aid to the tune of £50,000 p.a. for five years for renovation. This offer, some people may not realise, would actually involve A.V.P. in less expense than the other alternative proposed - demolishing the south end of the Pier.

The Council has found A.V.P.'s proposition unacceptable because the amount of money involved is insufficient to complete the task legally incumbent on A.V.P. of preventing parts of the Pier from being "abandoned or...suffered to fall into decay".

A.V.P. obviously have a duty to their shareholders. Yet such a company must surely be able to channel a substantial amount of the profits reaped from ownership of two major Brighton hotels to the restoration of the world's oldest whole surviving Victorian Pier.

The Evening Argus of 6.1.75 says:

"A.V.P. Industries boasted half-time turnover by nearly £2M."

"The board said that the full year's profit for A.V.P. would not be less than 12.5 per cent above the 1973 total."

At a time when Victoriana is fashionable, and when preservation of national monuments (the West Pier is an international attraction) is especially in our minds in European Architectural Heritage Year 1975 it seems that local and national support should be able to spur A.V.P. Industries Ltd. into further action.

Support is needed for the Save the West Pier Campaign
The address to which enquiries should be made is:-

John Lloyd,
Forum Gallery,
16, Market St.,
Brighton.

Tel. 28578.

Full details about the West Pier case may be obtained from "The West Pier", Brighton Society price 20p



Councillors who have hummed and ha-ed for years about building houses, swimming pools, welfare, and everything else now imply that we could have more of these if we get rid of the main part of the Pier.

A change of heart? No, it's just the old ruling class trick of playing one amenity off against another all over again.

IT'S ALL A BIG CON. The £2M that the Council talk about to scare ratepayers is completely phoney, it includes sums for a lot of work that does n't need doing yet if at all. With the results of the appeal, grants from various trusts and work by volunteers it could well end up costing the ratepayers NOTHING.

These beautiful structures are part of a heritage, and should be preserved against the day when they can be used for the benefit of all working people. As it is we just have a scorched earth policy on the part of capitalism, destroying everything as it retreats in confusion.

The pier could have something for everybody. Just sitting away from the noise and bustle of the town, a place to play in safety or to fish for hours on end are some of the more obvious functions. But

this principle could be applied to lots of other hobbies and crafts - all this could be organised democratically by the community. If people felt that the pier was being run by them and for them, they would more readily help with its maintenance. It would also be possible to have concerts, cabaret, dancing, perhaps a restaurant etc. Some of these activities would be money spinners subsidising the less profitable activities.

THEN WHY ARE SO MANY COUNCILLORS AGAINST THE PIER? Why do they ignore the financial facts about something that in the past has always been regarded as one of Brighton's major attractions. Are A.V.P. trying to turn the northern end of the Pier into private enclave for the Metropole Hotel. Are they just trying to distract attention from the Marina? Why don't the Councillors force A.V.P. to carry out their legal obligations? Even the 'left' Councillors are playing the same game.

Allowing the speculators to get away with this vandalism only encourages future attempts to blackmail us over issues like schools, housing, hospitals and other services.

In uniting to expose the fraud we can save the Pier and more importantly we shall be wiser and stronger in the future.

FIGHTING FOR A HOME:

In the last two years I have struggled for, and eventually won, the right to have a home for myself and my two children.

In these two years I have experienced intense pain, anger, helplessness, frustration and hate; and of course great satisfaction.

I was accepted onto the Hove housing list in 1969 after being resident in Hove for three years. At that time I was living in Brunswick Place in a tiny, poky room with Donna, my eldest daughter, and pregnant with my youngest daughter, Nicola. My husband left me when I was about 7½ months pregnant. At the time it was a terrible blow for me and I was very scared at the thought of bringing up two kids on my own in a very small room and having to rely on a small payment from the Social Security. The months went by and I was struggling all the time. The baby came. Nicola, was born on New Year's Eve 1969 and I came back from hospital to my horrible room. At that time I had no help from my husband, only the S.S. I just couldn't manage on the money with a new baby. Food, baby clothes, pram etc all cost money; I had no grant at all and I had to feed my children, so I fell behind with my rent. The landlord was very kind and he knew I was trying hard, but it couldn't go on so he gave me notice to quit. We went to court and I was given 28 days to vacate. I went to Hove Housing and saw Mr. Turner (housing manager). He told me he could not help me until he saw the court order, so I went again with the court order and again he said he would not help me as I was in arrears and I must pay those first. But my landlord said to me, if you go before the 28 days are up I will forget the arrears. He wasn't interested in the money. In fact, the real reason for wanting me out was that he was very scared of me being in one room with two children at the top of the house. He thought he would be in trouble with the health people and Turner didn't want to know, then by sheer luck I found another flat, a three roomed place in 3, Lower Market St., Hove.

* * *

Everything was fine and I was feeling on top of the world. I had so much more space and I was happy for a while. Then, about a year later, I had my next blow, I was given a month's notice to quit because the house was being pulled down to make way for luxury flats.

I again went to the Hove Housing Manager, (Turner), and he told me I must apply for Security of Tenure

and when I would go to court then he would help me. So, I did all this and went back to him to be told I was deleted from the housing list because of my arrears at Brunswick Place.

I didn't know where to turn, I was getting so desperate. I went to court and was given 28 days to get out. I looked all over Brighton, desperately searching and hoping that someone would give me a home for my children - but no-one wants children. The time was running out and I became ill, irritable and very scared.

About three days before I had to leave I was told to go up to Open and I met the Furnished Tenants Association. I told them my story and they were very interested and helpful; I cannot tell you how grateful I am for their full support.

* * *

The end of July came and I still had nowhere to go, so I decided to stay put and stick it out by

"I'm not saying it's easy, it's bloody hard but it's worth it"

barricading myself in and bloody well fighting it out to the end.

The bailiffs came and told me I had to be out by the 27th August at 11a.m. Then it really started to hit me and if it hadn't been for the wonderful support of the F.T.A. people I would've ended up in a nut-house. But I had to keep fighting for my kids, they really started acting funny and it was having a bad effect on them because they could see I was nervous and worrying all the time. At times I felt I couldn't go on and then I would think again and become stronger and more determined to fight for the right of a home. The 27th came and the bailiffs arrived. But, with so many people supporting me members of the F.T.A. and friends plus Southern T.V. and Argus reporters, they didn't smash down the doors. But I was ready for them; they wouldn't have got to me without a bloody good fight. But that wasn't the end, I knew they would be back with no warning this time.

In the meantime I was going to meetings with Turner and other Councillors. However, Turner was still determined to stick to his guns by not helping me. Mr. Hamilton, the Hove Labour Councillor, I must congratulate, he gave me

all the support he could and I will always be grateful to him. Then I heard that there would be a meeting to decide if they would give me a place. But I still had to be on my guard with the bailiffs, I knew they were watching every move I made to grab a chance to gain entry without a big scene. I knew they had a warrant to gain entry any time they wanted to and they would have stopped at nothing to get at me and my children and throw us on the street. You must remember, I wasn't fighting the owners of the house, I was fighting the Hove Housing Dept. With each day that passed I felt different, one day weaker the next stronger, through not knowing what they were going to do to the children and me.

The F.T.A. members were marvellous, they were with me the whole time. Allen Warr, Mike Valpy, Nick Slater, Dave Bell, Jane and Joyce plus many others all helped me through this period; I really can't put it into words to say how much I appreciate what they did for me, putting up with my bad moods, depression and

all. At the same time, they were good for the kids.

The meeting came on the 27th November and we all stood outside the Committee rooms waiting to hear the decision. We seemed to wait for hours, and then they all came out looking straight-faced. I was ready to start another fight, then I was told the decision and it was YES. Fucking hell! - it didn't sink in; I just couldn't believe it. I didn't know what to do, I didn't know how to react to anyone, but I was very happy and choked up. I got pissed that evening, and it was a great feeling.

Cont'd on page 10.

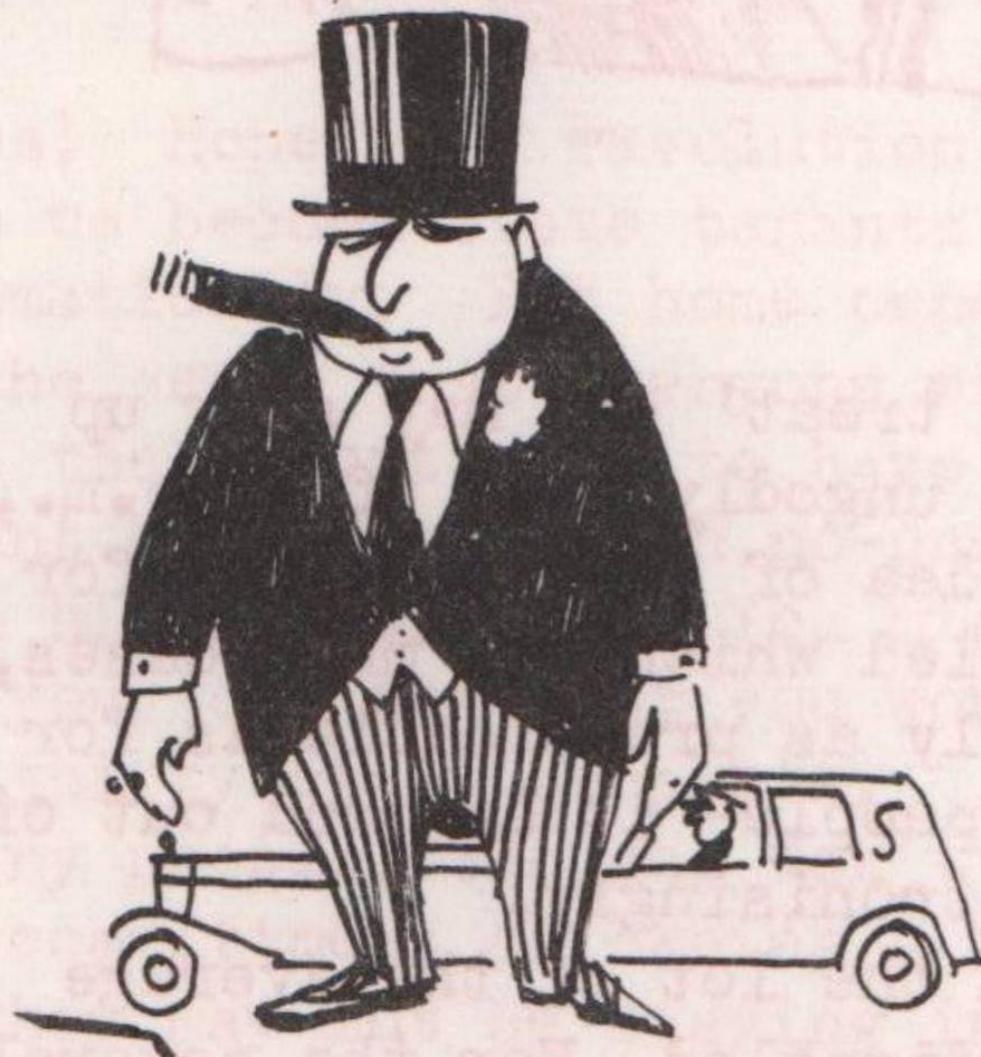


THE PURSUIT OF PERFECTION

7
BRIGHTON:
as we'd like
to see it

In this issue we try to show what we think it would be like to live in Brighton when people are able to make decisions and act for the collective good rather than private profit. Previous issues of Brighton Voice have given many examples of how the domination of the planning process and property development by those with power and wealth means that there always has to be a 'homeless family' problem in Brighton, and of how the police and various social services, far from serving the local community, only maintain a 'law and order' which is drawn up by and in the interests of these same people. The Liberal candidate for Pavilion, Delia Venables, described some of our articles as involving "insults, innuendoes and smear campaigns of very doubtful validity". In our reply we stated that the Liberal conception of "community action" was abstract and vague since it ignored the results in terms of possible social change towards increasing the control of people over their own lives and over their community.

The most important change would be in people. At present growing children are repressed by badly run nursery, first and middle schools (see issue 19 on the testing programme). They are taught to conform to arbitrary restrictions on the way we live, to passively consume goods deliberately made so as to need replacement very soon. Most people are forced to work long hours to attain the advertised 'necessary' life style and in many cases even survive (meanwhile producing profit for someone else).



Instead people would educate themselves within the community: facilities being available within workplaces for study and for passing on knowledge. Individuals would be encouraged to develop their natural talents in many directions so that they could actively participate in directing their own lives. They could make their contribution to the social product where it best suited them. People liberated from authoritarian restraints would be able to relate freely to anyone. Fascism, racism and sexism would disappear.

It is easier, perhaps, to look at how this would work out in practice at the workplace; although we would still require people skilled in medicine or in maintaining machines, the reliance on the 'expert' would in broad terms disappear. Everyone would be seen as a person rather than someone able to do a particular activity, and through that activity justifying their present extraordinary elevation in status. Thus specialization of functions as distinct from a diversity of talents would be discouraged so that everyone would have the opportunity to learn the possibilities and problems in widely differing situations and therefore better able to participate in decisions about them.

Think also of how leisure is organised in this town: because it is on the coast Brighton is very popular and visitors inundate the town on weekends causing severe strain to the town's resources. Of course, Brighton will continue to be a place where people will want to visit to get away from the crowded city or to go to the seaside; but there is no reason for everyone to come at the weekend; working and play times could be more flexible so that anything could happen at any time; better still there would not be a heavily oppressed section of the population who maintain essential services whilst the rest of us are enjoying ourselves. We would all participate in essential tasks, local festivities would be organised so that everyone could participate as much as possible without the constraint of having to work and play at particular times.

The other important differences would be in the way in which people would organise themselves locally to produce and distribute goods and services. No longer would there be bureaucrats sitting at desks in an imposing building in the centre of town, ignorant of the problems people face in their everyday life,

and taking their instructions from those whose interest is in retaining their hold on power rather than the health of the community. Instead we would decide together on what activities are felt to be essential for a good life; the best expert on how we want to live our lives is ourselves; the main reason why we have been persuaded otherwise is so that we do what we are told even though it often leads to disaster. In this way we would ask whether houses should be kept empty

whilst people are homeless rather than asking whether or not an empty house is profitable. Decisions about who should do what, would depend on what people can do, and who should get what on what they need, not on the dictates of a labour market organised on the basis of the exploitation of the weak by the strong.



How would order be maintained in the broadest sense of essential services and the safety and security of individuals? We have often complained about the arbitrary and authoritarian nature of Brighton's police force, and have demanded community control over the way in which the police operate. Within a society based upon the community as a whole "antisocial behaviour", stealing etc would largely disappear because its roots in a competitive and hierarchically structured society, dismal housing estates and depressing schools with no facilities would have gone. There would still be rare occasions when individuals would sufficiently endanger the life and well-being of others that they would have to be restrained, but these rare occasions would be taken as an opportunity for the community to work out what went wrong in terms of the environment and relationships which that individual experienced; in other words, it would be a sign of failure by the community rather than the individual.

It sounds like some fantasy. But it is the way in which we try to organise and relate together to produce this paper. But given the pressures of outside society and the continuing restraints imposed by bourgeois society on our everyday lives, we find it very difficult. Whilst struggling for such changes therefore - some areas of which are gone into in more detail in the articles which follow, we shall continue to complain about the present forms of social organisation not with the intention of improving them but replacing them.

REVOLUTION! — not just talk

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN PEOPLE TALKED A LOT ABOUT REVOLUTION AND HOW TO ACHIEVE IT. There was even a joke in Punch about it. Question "Which is the way to the Revolution?" Answer "Just keep turning left". Not very funny but then Punch never was. But is it true? Is that how you get there? Some revolutionaries preferred to say that Revolution came as people moved further to the right piling on the repression and exploitation until the workers rose up in sheer desperation. Others talked of revolution through piecemeal measures of reform and they would have agreed with the answer given by Punch. And to these you can add at least a dozen more alternative theories as to how we shall arrive at the Revolution.

Most of the talk was about THE revolution, a single volcanic eruption of the working people, and this notion of a huge earth-shattering event in the near or not too distant future has kept people hopeful. But it has also kept a lot of workers and left-wing politicians quiet and submissive. How often we've heard self-styled socialists say "Don't worry about little issues like housing exploitation in Brighton or local bus strikes. You can't do anything in Brighton alone. Wait for the big moment when the whole country is in a state of Revolution." A lot of socialist talkers, particularly the dogmatic ones, think that community action and protest is a waste of time because it does not produce THE Revolution. Of course to some extent they're right. But local action, local protests, local strikes and local demonstrations do have one major effect without which NO revolution can occur. They politicise people; they accentuate class conflict and the clash between privileged and under-privileged. In short they raise revolutionary consciousness. And you can't do that merely by talking about it.

In this issue of the Voice we talk about Revolution in Brighton, what society would be like once local people begin to run their own lives in the fullest and richest sense. But also in this issue as in the previous 20 we initiate and call for revolutionary action in Brighton. The Voice itself is part of that action, part of a fight which determined people have been

waging for many years against local repression, exploitation and injustice, a fight which has made hundreds of people Brighton more aware of how they are being victimised and what they can do about it. And in this fight the consciousness of revolution has grown. And by this we mean not just a more mature awareness of what the eventual socialist society could be like but also a commitment to produce it. For if the world after the Revolution belongs to the workers and

THE TROUBLE
IS ...



producers in society it is also true that the revolution will be made by those who work to produce it. And the place to work for the revolution is the place you work all the time, in your own locality and community. If you opt out of the conflict there you've probably opted out altogether. The point is not to wait for the big moment but to use every opportunity, and there are plenty of them in Brighton where there is such a high level of conflict between the interests of the people and the profits and inflated life-styles of those who control them. This conflict is brought into the open by the action of ordinary people. That's what Revolution means in day-to-day activity and it's day-to-day revolutionary activity which makes utopias into reality.

home thoughts from a commune

Due to capitalist culture, to be physically disabled is tantamount to being deprived of emotional, spiritual, and ethical freedom in everyday matters. This is because the severely disabled, being dependent on others for their every physical need, are as likely as not shoved into homes where the norms of capitalist society not only run rampant, but are supplemented by a high degree of regimentation geared to the efficient use of nursing staff etc. Thus, as

IN A TOWN LIKE
BRIGHTON ...



a 'special treat' one may stay up until the ungodly hour of 11 p.m., and the idea of 'fornication' for the disabled which, in most cases, is probably as practicable as for 'normal' people— is laughed out of court, patronisingly.

Such is the lot of the average severely disabled. For the severely disabled fat-cat, mummy and daddy provide a luxurious pad, complete with Jeeves.

The alternative lot for the physically disabled, in Brighton for example, would be a commune, the physically able as a whole caring for them, abolishing such labels as 'nurses', 'attendants', 'helpers', etc.

Impractical utopia? It so happens that not only am I severely disabled, but I've just joined a commune.

Where we'll be living.

The big difference in post-revolution housing in Brighton will be accepting that HOUSES ARE FOR PEOPLE; young, old, black, white - everyone.

There won't be over three thousand empty houses due to conversions, speculations and investments together with an acute housing shortage where landlords daren't let property reasonably and where ordinary people can't afford to rent or buy them - and where the council just sits on its rump and aids evictions.

Priority will be for a first home for everyone, not luxury flats and weekend retreats for the 'fortunate.'

How will housing be organised? Will there be home ownership?

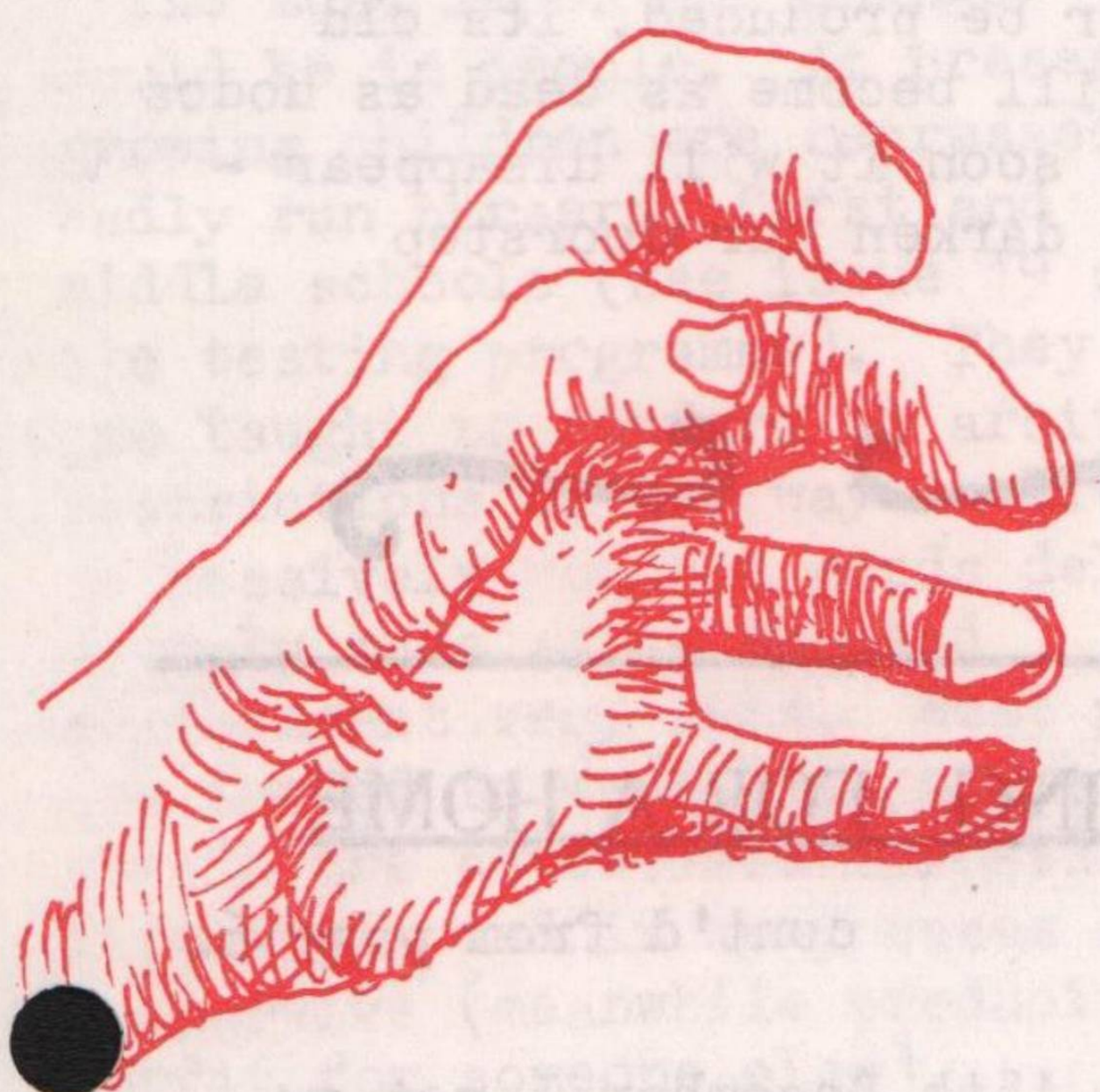
from their home for a while and who would like to have it occupied and maintained until they return. This means changing our attitudes and taxes to penalise those who charge exorbitant rents, who keep homes empty or who engage in anti-social building schemes.

Squatting, renovation, short term letting for scheduled property will be the rule, not the semi-criminal exception; letting reasonable accommodation which everybody can afford and with trust and security on both sides will no longer be an act of monumental folly and botched up law. And the these changes towards community trust and responsibility are surely what the whole revolution's about.



III

GETTING TO GRIPS



Yes! Hopefully revolution won't mean we become State tenants automatically. But home ownership in the sense that everyone will have the opportunity to have a decent home from which no-one can turn him or her out. You might own your own home but you won't own thirty other people's.

Many people, though, don't want the committment of owning a house, or they may not be staying in one area for long. Consequently they may want rented accommodation but what sort will that be?

Obviously there will be communally owned property - now called Council houses - we need far more of those for inexpensive accommodation. Will there be any private sector letting?

Yes, again. People may want holiday accommodation or certain conditions where community accommodation might not be suitable. One obvious example might be people who are going to be away

IV

WITH THE PROBLEM



Also debunked will be the fallacy that social organisation must be around the nuclear family. Even now half of us don't live within that abstraction of Mum, Dad and 2.4 kids. Housing arranged around the community as a whole won't pigeonhole single people to desolate bedsitland. Nor will older people be left in big, empty houses after the kids grow up and have as the only two alternatives inadequate and lonely rooms or an institution. Old people will still be part of the community not put out to pasture and die forgotten. People will be able to share houses or flats and buildings of all shapes and sizes; and for people who want to share their own place a precondition of economic prostitution through marriage will no longer be required to demonstrate your competence to live under your own roof. Perhaps then we will hear no more about the undesirability of people who aren't married

or groups of individuals living together and the detrimental effect of the so-called competition between them and family units.

After all, they do need different types of accommodation and it is only the society that concentrates on one form - which it calls the best - which calls into existence this competition. The unmarried mother needs a community, a home and a good environment for her and her kids just as much as Mum, Dad and the 2.4 but no-one pretends that they will be the same. Indeed, how can they be when the life style of the latter now is thought sufficient grounds for condemning the former as a social outcast?

Of course, another reason why housing is so stereotyped is that builders 'have' to erect profitable housing - luxury flats, horrible, shoddy-box flats and semis. Once the profit motive is consigned to the collective junk pile this won't be necessary. We will be able to have more attractive places; they will be the way we want them both as individuals and as a community. No more dirty, great blocks plonked on top of us ruining the environment, causing needless dislocation and cold wastelands in our town. The builders and architects would do that because they would have everything to gain in their lives in the town and nothing to lose from their pockets. Town planning generally - bus lanes, play areas, social facilities, pedestrian precincts etc - would be for people living in the town not for those living off it.

And speaking of parasites, what happens to those percentage suckers, the estate agents, who have done so well out of 'valuing', 'negotiating', 'managing'? We'll

(continued page 10)





before capitalism

After the Revolution here in Brighton we assume that people will realise that the children in our community are our children and that we are all responsible for their welfare and education. Thus we will all work together to provide children with the utmost opportunity to play and explore their environment and we will see that every single child has a place to play in safety. Instead of National Car Parks using large vacant plots of land in the densely populated parts of Brighton we will use such space for adventure playgrounds, parks or play areas for small children which will be absolutely free of dog shit. (In post revolutionary Brighton people who allow their dogs to mess all over parks and pavements will be obliged to take a day off work and walk round the town shovelling up dog shit, which duty should instil a heightened sense of community responsibility.)

Children MUST have somewhere to play. We will give priority to play areas for children. Three years ago a boy from Milner flats was killed when he crashed through the roof of the Vegetable Market - yet all around Milner flats at that time and now there are vacant plots of land which are ideal sites for playgrounds but at present they are used mainly by the John Street Mob to park their cars. Similarly, the children of the Elm Grove area had created for themselves an almost perfect natural adventure playground in the Hartington Rd. railway cutting. The kids had built tree houses, dens amongst the bushes and camps out of railway sleepers. However, at the beginning of 1974, council workmen chopped down the trees and flattened the camps and bushes leaving a barren waste of chalk fenced in by a high wire



fence which must have cost a thousand quid. Now, the reason why the site has been cleared is because the Council has decided to build (wait for it folks!) an adventure playground. Try explaining that kind of bureaucratic balls-up to the kids who now stand outside the wire fence with nowhere to play.

In our new-style Brighton there will be somewhere for Mums and Dads to gather in comfort while kids play nearby. There will be plenty of adventure playgrounds with stimulating equipment like inflatables, good climbing towers and subterranean camps. It makes more sense to provide collective toys so that ALL kids have the chance to ride chopper bikes or play with big, dolls' prams, not just the ones with rich relations! The ugly, rip-off roundabouts and amusement arcades on the Kempton seafront will be replaced by safe, sandy beaches for children; and clean paddling pools and open air swings and ropes will be provided. There will be provisions for teenagers too, and young people will be able to create their own clubs.

A mention should be made here of the amazing dedication of the team at present working at Moulescombe Adventure Playground, which is no longer functioning as a playground at the moment because of vandalism and a total lack of funds. This has been the most exciting (indeed only!) adventure playground for Brighton kids and the Voice applauds all the effort going into re-establishing the playground: though at the same time we ask why the hell should the team have to spend much of their time begging and in organising fund-raising schemes to buy really obvious necessities like a hut and a fence - like the one round the Hartington Rd. site! - time which they'd much prefer to spend at the playground with the children.

This sort of situation won't arise in post-Revolutionary Brighton - we'll all agree that 'Children are the seeds of freedom' and, if we create a society geared to children's needs and not to capitalist enterprise and profit-making, then those children will in turn continue to create an Utopia.

WHERE WE'LL BE LIVING

cont'd from page 9.

still need to be able to tell what sort of condition a place is in but we won't need profit motivated experts intimidating us by invoking the strange god of their cult the F.R.I.C.S. (Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors). Also we'll need some method by which accommodation can be exchanged and information about places wanted and places available circulated: but where capitalism ceases to function how can there be an organism living off just capital? So, goodbye all you Brighton Councillors - oops, sorry, Brighton Estate Agents.

After the revolution we will live in homes that suit OUR needs, not those of moral and economic institutions. We will learn to live together, all of us, as a community. Yes, housing will be very different in Brighton, hopefully there will only be a shortage of accommodation in the town for one group of people - those who keep houses empty and people homeless and then cock a snoot over sherry. But in the new society this type of thought will no longer be produced, its old relics will become as dead as dodos and very soon it will disappear - never to darken our doorstep again.

FIGHTING FOR A HOME

cont'd from page 6.

On the 15th December I got my home, a beautiful Christmas present, indeed. I still couldn't believe it but it was true, and, for everyone reading this, remember, I would NOT have got a place if I hadn't put up a great fight.

I have learnt a hell of a lot about many things and I know there must be hundreds of other people who will never get a place because they haven't got the guts to fight or because they get frightened by it all. But if they came to me or anyone who has experienced it all they would get every support. In this world if you want anything you have just got to fight for it. I'm not saying it's easy, it's bloody hard but it's worth it in the end - it really is. If there is anyone reading this who's in the same position please, get off your backside - you can do something about it. There are plenty of wonderful people about who will be only too glad to help; and remember, like me you will win in the end.

Tracy Horgan.

ALLOTMENTS



The last few years have seen a great increase in the demand for allotments. This is due to a variety of causes: increased food costs, more and more people having to live in houses or flats with either no garden at all or a very small one, and the "Back to the soil" feeling which many of us get as a response to a packaged existence in the consumer society.

Today your local allotment is far from the decaying scene of a few years ago with the odd pensioner growing a few cabbages amidst acres of grass and nettles. The pensioner is still there giving the benefit of his years of experience but he has been joined by an army of younger people digging away like mad.

This scene of booming self-help is however marred by the retrogressive policy of the town council who prefer to use land they bought cheaply years ago, i.e. allotment land, rather than buy new at current prices when they build schools, houses etc. Since 1959 the number of allotments has been reduced by about one third, from around 2200 plots in 1959 to today's 1478, a reduction of over 46 acres.

In the past this attitude could have been excused by lack of demand. The parks and gardens department had a defeatist outlook, with, in 1971, 50% of sites not properly cultivated and many without tenants at all. The picture is now very different with all sites taken and a waiting list of over 300. However, the department still feel that they cannot press for more sites until all sites are fully cultivated, at present some 20% are only partially used, but they do seem to have new heart and are improving facilities and starting to run model allotments. Meantime many other departments still have their eyes on the allotment land.

Allotment shortage is just one of the ways in which the use of

land by people without the money to buy it is being curtailed. Another example in Brighton is the Whitehawk redevelopment scheme in which the total number of houses on the estate will be greatly increased, i.e. smaller gardens, if any. No gardens means no home veg, means greater food bills. Meantime those at the top of the pecking order, up Dyke Road for example, have vast gardens just for looking at, they can afford not to bother to use them for growing vegetables.

This issue of the Voice is dedicated to "post revolutionary Brighton". If this revolution we are talking about is going to change more than the titles of the bosses; if it is going to mean less drudgery in factories, producing things people don't really need or want; It is also going to mean less foreign trade, which will mean we are going to have to produce most of our food. (This is only fair considering that we have a far greater area per person of good land than many countries). This can only be done however if as many people as possible can be encouraged to produce a proportion of their own food.

In the long term we can see this resulting in far more scattered communities, villages and small towns being spread out with vegetable gardens for almost every house. However in an old town like Brighton greatly increased allotment space will be required even if this means acquiring farm land outside the town.

Allotment gardens then will have a great future after the revolution. In the meantime however we have an uphill struggle to even retain the allotments we have at present. How can we proceed with this struggle? Local authorities have a statutory obligation to provide sites for allotments if there is a demand for them. What we have to do is prove this demand in a way in which it cannot be ignored.

The Sussex Whole Earth Group is as just one of their many activities helping people to get together to share allotments. A standard plot

is one sixth of an acre, a daunting area of grass for a beginner to dig up, this is one of the causes of the 20% plots not fully cultivated, they are just too big for many people. If you have an allotment which you would like to share with someone else, or would like a share of one, they are the people to contact (see below).

When all allotments are utilised to the full and there is still a long waiting list we can begin to organise a campaign for more allotment space (This can be provided both by utilising odd corners of land too small for other uses and also by purchase of farmland at Falmer (say just south of the college of education) or between Coldean and Ditchling Road; if it was properly arranged it need not be unsightly, which building in these places would be. By careful argument supplemented by publicity, petitions and other methods (anybody for a token dig-in in Grand Parade?) we can make sure that the council cannot ignore the demand.

Acknowledgement

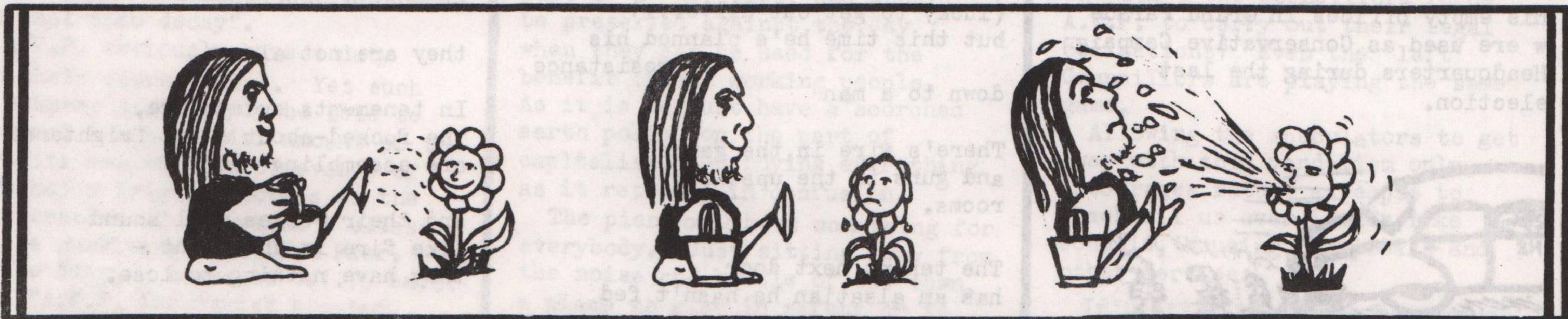
We wish to thank the Sussex Earth Group for help with background for this article. Contact them through their secretary Alastair Nesbitt, 54 Queens Park Road, Brighton. (Allotments sharing, Horace Herring, same address.

BRIGHTON FOOD CO-OP

The Brighton Food Co-op was established to buy food in bulk at advantageous prices. It is still alive and well after four months of operating and would like to expand its membership, to enable a wider range of fruit, veg and eggs to be bought - besides just wanting more people to join a co-operative community scheme.

If you are interested please come to Open Cafe, 7 Victoria Rd., Brighton on Thursdays at 8p.m. with your order and money.

The Co-op finances itself by selling old papers and magazines, so start saving yours.



HENRY SMITH PROPERTY SPECULATORS ?

This is the text of a letter sent to Brighton teachers-
"EAST SUSSEX EDUCATION COMMITTEE
(Brighton Area) .

A furnished flat in East Brighton is available to Brighton Corporation for the use of newly appointed teachers as temporary accommodation for three months in the first instance with the possibility of extension for a further period. The flat comprises a large living room, two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and lavatory and is designed to accommodate a family.

The current rental is £62.85 per calendar month exclusive of rates (although on the open market it would cost up to three times as much). It is possible with the economic situation the rental will increase.

The flat was offered on these special terms by a Property Company* who are anxious to have as tenants a teacher (and family) who has accepted an appointment in the town and who is looking for permanent accommodation but would need temporary accommodation whilst searching for a permanent place to live.

Any teacher who is interested in using this accommodation should write to the Area Education Officer as soon as possible.

J. Lyn Jones.

Accommodation for newly appointed teachers. Available from 1st Jan. 1975.

* Henry Smith Properties Ltd. "

Nice one, Henry Smith Properties Ltd, at a time when you can't sell properties because people aren't earning enough, especially teachers (remember the Council itself said in November last year, before 20% inflation hit us, that you needed £77 per week income to buy somewhere to live in Brighton) you've hit on a crafty manoeuvre to get yourself guaranteed tenants. The "special terms" (exclusive of rates) for your two-bedroomed flat behind the gasworks aren't exactly generous when you think of teacher's salaries-- the average teacher's wage is 38 pounds per week.

P.S. "Henry Smith" drives a large white Jaguar around Brighton with his initials on the door in gold. His empty offices in Grand Parade were used as Conservative Campaign Headquarters during the last election.

FAIR PLAY FOR CHILDREN CAMPAIGN

On December 5th, an open meeting was called by Chris Miller of Social Services to launch a local Fair Play campaign for children. It was a confused meeting but everyone agreed that we must treat it as a PRIORITY to provide play spaces.

The Brighton branch of the A.S. Neill Trust association support the objectives of the Fair Play campaign but as they give priority to alternative projects for children and believe in direct action and not reformist policies they plan to go ahead and build an adventure playground in the near future. Anyone interested phone 691712.

" D U M P S "

SHELTER is preparing a report on Council Estates that have a reputation for being dumping grounds for families no one else wants, in other words what our society calls 'problem families'. The report, based on three towns including Brighton will investigate how the tenants of such estates actually get there, how they get on with their neighbours, the housing dept., social workers etc. The report is intended to shatter the public's complacency about council estates and explode the myth that all council tenants have plenty of money, two cars and so on. It will take the line that the main problem on these estates is the fact that the tenants are POWERLESS and have no way of influencing decisions about their own lives. SHELTER believes that there should be more tenant control or at least a wide measure of tenant participation.

If anyone in Brighton has any evidence they want to give to Shelter on this problem or any experience of successful tenant associations please contact Petra Griffiths, Shelter, 86 Strand, London W.C.2

In Tenements Everywhere.

The last remaining residents in our block are watching behind curtains behind barricades

& their weapons are ready.

The man in number five fought the first of their kind (lucky to get out alive...) but this time he's planned his resistance down to a man

There's wire in the garden and guns in the upstairs rooms.

The tenant next door has an alsatian he hasn't fed for three days,

his wife has perfected her own brand of highly explosive cocktail.

The lady upstairs has been watching 'Kung Fu' - she knows all the moves.

At night they call to each other across the vast expanse of dust & debris,

they are not alone:

In tenements everywhere, the fucked-about & the frightened are assembling

and their voices will sound like fire in the night - they have nothing to lose.

Brian Moses.



NEW COMMUNITY
marina

..... cont'd

The marathon Council meeting of January 2nd, went on from 2.30 to 10.30 p.m., and despite the stonewalling (e.g. on tenant participation in housing management) eventually reached the core matter - the Marina Company's desperate plea for changes in their lease agreement. As we said in our evidence to the Marina Inquiry in December, capitalist logic would inevitably produce yet more changes in land-uses proposed on the site, and bingo! 24 hours after the Ministry's Inspector left Brighton we have substantial changes at the Company's request...

Essentially they're horsetrading; the Company giving in a bit on the immediate development, the Council giving in a bit on the longer-term development. The Company now have to put down a further £12½M to ensure that the harbour gets built, and they only get their lease when the harbour is fully workable. In return they get off the hook of producing the goods by 1982, and now have no obligation to produce anything at all other than a harbour. And the Council is no longer liable to pay compensation, in return for a partial waiver of the right to sue for damages.

The interesting small-print however leaves longer-term development wide open to the Company. The 9-week public Inquiry examined land-uses but excluded examination of the financial viability of the various elements. Now, under this new deal, the Company have an agreement with the Council that financial viability should be a factor taken in account for future land-uses.

In other words, Capital and its demands should determine public amenities.

The Inspector and the Department of the Environment might care to note that on December 11th, just as Councillors and officials were beginning their secret talks with the Marina Co. which lead to these changes Brighton Voice was giving evidence to the public Inquiry into the present scheme. The crux of our case was that because the Marina relied so heavily for its finance on borrowed money, the schemes proposed by the company would vary again and again to suit the demands for profit by the money lenders - pension funds, banks, etc. Under these circumstances any notion of controlled development in the best interests of the town was nonsense. The present revisions of the lease merely confirm what

we've been saying all along. Our Council is incapable of controlling the progress of this mammoth development, and the sooner we, the people of Brighton, are given some say in the development WE want, the better.

ANANDA'S

First the bad news, then the good. After 2½yrs at 111 Gloucester Rd., Ananda's closing down because their

lease has expired. There can be few of us who haven't had a nice time buying and browsing about in there sometime or another. They will be shutting up shop at the end of February, so way not pop in there, Brighton may not be quite the same again afterwards.

Now the good news. They've just heard that, subject to Council approval, they have a good chance of getting a place in Bond St., in the face of competition from antique dealers. If they can get it then they also get the flat above the shop which they needed as they have to get out of their present house too.

They'll be closed while they fix their new place up but they hope it won't be for long.

Meanwhile they say thanks to all the people who've given them such nice vibes - it makes it all worthwhile.

OPEN

Bit-by-Bit Information Service starting soon from Open Cafe. Volunteers wanted to help man the phone for the service which will provide help, legal and social advice of various kinds and will also operate a crashpad service. To help pay for the phone any wastepaper, ciggy coupons, trading stamps - and of course money - will be welcome.

There will also be a baby-sitting group.

Contact:- 'Open',
7, Victoria Rd.,

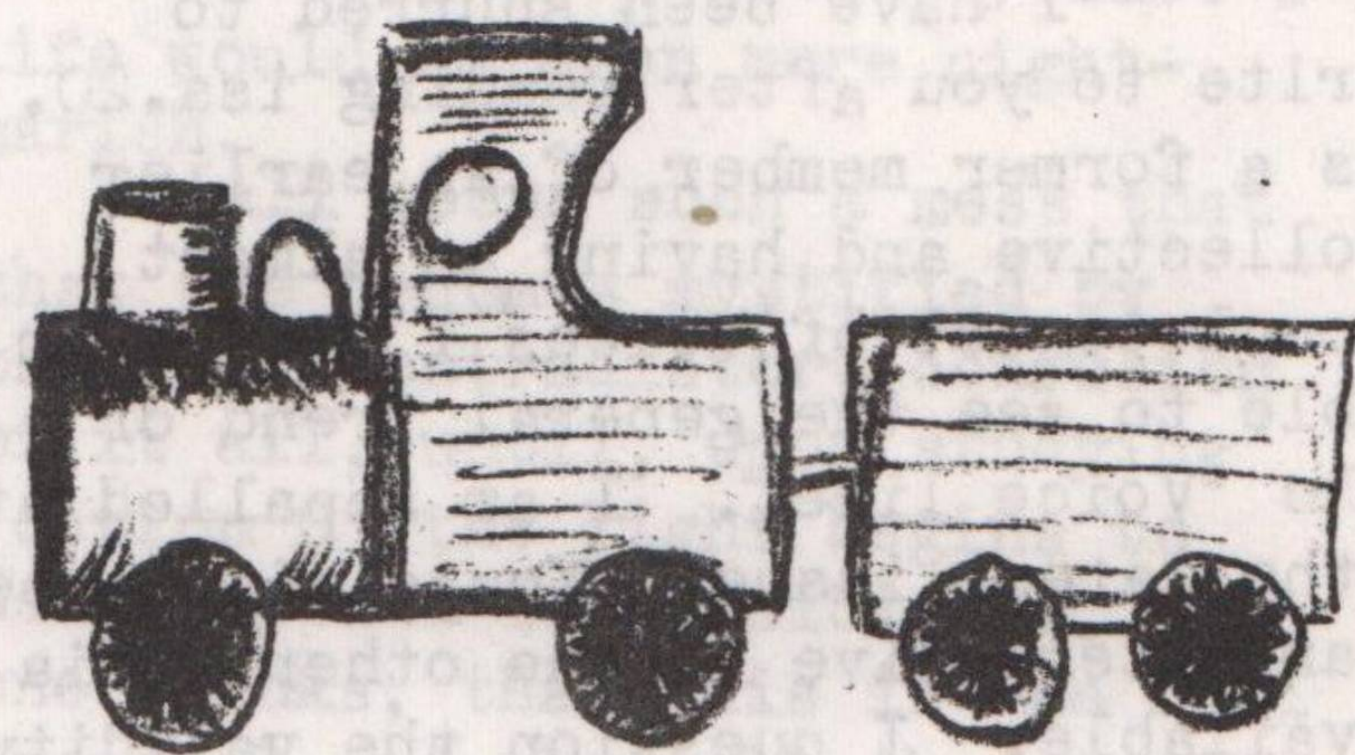


LEARNING TO SHARE

"That's MY train."

"And that's MY lorry. Get your thieving hand off it."

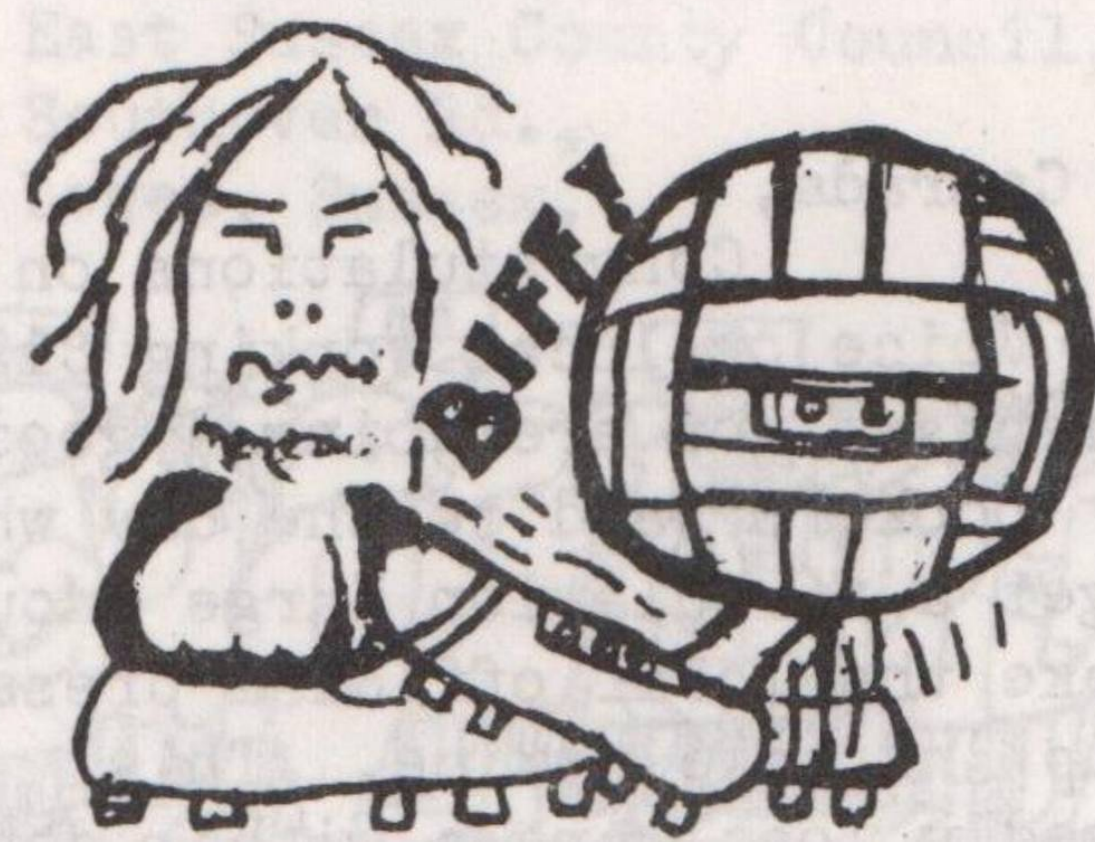
Kids pick up the evils of private ownership as early as they learn anything. The whole nasty consumer society encourages them to become OWNERS, grabbing what they can get and hanging on to it. Toys are one of the quickest ways into property and capitalism.



But they don't have to be. They can be things which kids share and borrow and give back to common ownership so that other kids can have a turn.

This is what's happening at Whitehawk where the first TOY LIBRARY in the country is operating in the Community Centre. It's free and any kids can join. They just choose what they like the look of, borrow it and bring it back. If it

accidentally gets broken there are workshops where it can be repaired, but in fact there are very few breakages. And although there's very little space in the library the helpers try to get kids to have a good look round and try out a few toys before deciding. So it's a place where you learn to share right from the start. And nobody can say "It's MINE."



STUFF YOUR NEW FRONT DOORS!

There's a saying on council estates that when the local authority is about to pull your house down they turn up with a new front door. Or a new drainpipe. Something to lull you into a false sense of security.

In Whitehawk Avenue there is a rumour that front doors are on the way. But they're not so stupid in Whitehawk. What the tenants want is a say in their own future and they are not going to be conned by a new front door. You can stuff that!



Dear Voice,

I am writing in response to the short article printed in the 'Preston Area' section about the children's home at 83, Beaconfield Villas. I, in fact, work there and was very surprised when I saw the article as I knew nothing about it whatsoever which shows the lack of communication in the home, for a start. My main objection was your attitude towards how the home could be helped out. It is true we are grossly understaffed - to cover each child's needs we would need a one to one ratio as these children are very demanding - but it is no use trying to cover up the inadequacies by asking people to volunteer. The solution is to pressurize the social services so that they allow enough money to be spent on having adequate staff.

Neither is it true that the local authority has been helpful - and I don't know any member of the staff who thinks this - we get no support from them at all. They use the home to get rid of any problem case they have regardless of whether the child is suitable or whether we can cope.

Of course we want more people to come into the home - the more chance of the children going out and meeting other people the better - but it must not be used as a substitute solution which can only be dealt with from the inside.

Yours Faithfully,
Deborah Levy.

To the Voice 'Collective?'

I have been spurred to write to you after reading iss.20. As a former member of an earlier collective and having an almost complete set of 'Voices' I feel I am able to see the general trend of the 'Voice line'. I am appalled at the latest issue. You claim to be an alternative to the other media available. I question the validity of that statement. The paper is now an organ of 'social democracy'. There are plenty of papers in that line. You are about as superficial and controversial as the 'Daily Telegraph.'

The paper no longer questions the validity of the power structure or it's basis. By implication you favour a labour party controlled, unionised type of structure. If this is the best you can manage I suggest you take the advice of Nobby Clarke - join 'Spark,' - or close up.

Chris Streatfield

P.S. If you join 'Spark' the new venture could be called 'Damp Squid.'

C.S.

PARTICIPATION IN HANOVER.

At a crowded public meeting held in Finsbury Rd. Polytechnic Annex on Jan 13th, Brighton planners outlined a scheme for improving the area between Islingwood St., and Albion Hill, off Queens Park Rd. Basically, the scheme involves providing some traffic barriers, some trees and other 'environmental improvements', and, possibly some money for a community centre. This last item is most important, for the Council's promise to do something to provide a community centre comes only after a long struggle by people who live in the area, who refused to accept no for an answer, fought hard for over 5 years, and finally got what they wanted. The scheme has yet to be approved by the Policy and Resources and Housing Committees, but if it goes through it will be a real victory. The message for groups in other areas is clear-- ORGANISE, and refuse to give up, even when things look hopeless.

P.S. During the discussion at this meeting, Ken Fines, Brighton's Planning officer, came up with the opinion that he didn't like long

NEW COMMUNITY GROUP STARTS IN BRUNSWICK

There is to be a Public Meeting of anyone living in the Brunswick area who would be interested in establishing a local Community Group, at Somerhill School, Somerhill Road (North of Lansdowne Place) on Wednesday, 12th February 1975 at 7.30p.m.

We are a few people concerned with community activity in the area- or the lack of it- and feel that something should be done to alleviate the lack of community identity and isolation predominant in this part of Hove. We can offer a variety of possible activities- from voluntary visiting and shopping to welfare rights information services, community newspaper, legal advice- and have various facilities which could be used to get these services started.

The area extends from Montpelier Road to Holland Road inland from the seafront to the North of Western Rd. so if you live within it, or just outside, why not come along to the meeting and give your support? Anyone willing to give a little time, thought and energy towards such local activity, or who has any ideas of their own as to what they would like to see happening, would be very welcome to come and air their opinions. If you can't come the meeting, but would like to know more about the group, get in touch with Monica Fletcher on Brighton 721821 ext. 53.

NEXTISSUENEXTISSUENEXTISSUENEXTISSUE

'Brighton Voice' has been produced from "OPEN" Community Centre, in Victoria Road on the edge of the Brunswick area, for some time. In our next issue, we're having a special feature on this area, so if you know anything about Brunswick, if you have any stories, news, gossip, memories or photos, we'd be glad to hear from you.....
Brighton Voice, 7, Victoria Road.

one-way streets because they "speed up the traffic". Too right. Perhaps Ken should have a quiet word in the ear of Dennis Charnock, County Engineer, whose B.A.T.MAN proposals (see p.3.) threaten to turn the central areas of Brighton into a one way race track.

Dear Comrade,

Congratulations on the last Voice on local Working Class movements. You are doing a good job. Look forward to the day when you get a circulation large enough to make the local official press sit up and take notice. This allegedly local press either denigrates the organised working-class movement by a conspiracy of silence or publishes slanted reports and articles calculated to boost up the local big business establishment. Your paper can become the antidote to this state of affairs.

Yours Fraternally,
Dudley Edwards.

info...

advice

Housing Advice Centre, 73 Grand Parade

Rent Tribunal, Anston House 137 Preston Rd (506381) may give rent reductions, security of tenure etc.

BPAS-abortion, pregnancy tests, vasectomy-Wistons 138 Dyke Rd (509726)

Voluntary Service Centre-family case-work & citizens advice bureau, 17 Ditchling Rise (61664) free, helpful C'zen's Advice also at 2 St. Georges Pl. 2. 15-4. 15daily & Whitehawk Community Ctr Thurs. 2-4 pm (no appts. nec)

Samaritans 24 hrs. (733333)

Marriage Guidance Council 46 Grand Parade (681919)

Family Planning Clinic 18/19 Western Rd (734258) also c/o Health Centre U.S.

Cancer Prevention (29801)

NCCL Richard Moseley 2 Gloucester St (684256)

Off the Record-helps with general problems-sex, loneliness etc Youth service Mon-Fri 8-10pm (63080)

Age-Concern 57 Ditchling RD (683275) old people's welfare

Friend-Mon. evenings (61664) weekdays 10-6pm (739729)

etc.

Our Schools Campaign primarily vs. botched infant school plans, Joe Taylor (67496)

Moulsecomb Adventure Play ground 10-8. 30pm. offers of help to Dave Smith (686834)

Old Newspapers wanted for playgroup in Elm Grove will collect (62284)

Brighton Hostel 105 Islingwood Rd Gives meals Sun. & Wed. 2-5pm. Tea, Toast & Stew at other times if poss. Needs clothes, food & HELP

F'ball club in Hollingdean 80 boys, 30 train Weds 7-9pm & 4 teams play Sats Help needed-Peter Carver (500232) Brian Webb (680522)

papers

Queenspark-v. good local newspaper-14 Toronto Tce. 62 Bentham Rd (688380)

Little Digger Mag. & also Brighton for Kids-magazine & guide, for & by kids 15p Public House etc or contact 117 Hartington Rd

Bright Times-literary+some news-alternative community paper-John Noyce Flat 2 82 Montpelier Rd

Educat-local teachers/education mag. No. 2 out 15p/20p by post-42 Egremont Place (680258)

Mother & Toddler afternoon Westdene Library Tue. 2. 30-3-15pm (term-time) coffee, toys, picture books-meet other Mums.

Aardvaark -radical comic still on sale. help to (553607)

shops

Public House Bookshop 21 Little Preston St (28357) Alternative/Radical/Freak books & mags coffee

Symposium 12 Market St (2 142) Radical/Art books mag

Infinity Foods 25 North Rd macro/organic veg No rip-off

Ananda 111 Gloucester Rd (67772)-odds-and-ends to make your life good

Uncle Sam's Hamburger Expt Montpelier Rd Everything-and-chips

Brighton Workers Bkshop 3 Gloucester Rd (684404) CPB(M-L) Sats 9.30-6pm

The Garden 22 Trafalgar St Veg. Cafe Mon-Thur 10- pm Fri, Sat 10am-11pm

Three Rooms Cafe 14 Blatchington Rd Hove (779933) Veget. cafe. Lunches Mon-Sat 10-3pm OAP and students 25p

Garudas 17 Kensington Gdns (682983) crafts coffee pictures Open Cafe 7 Victoria Rd Mon

Thur 12-8pm Fri, Sat 12-11pm cheap veget. food. SUN 12-8

groups/gatherings

The right to Read: classes at Connaught FE Centre Connaught Rd Hove evenings. Help for adults who can't read or write Phone 720406 (evenings) if you need help or you know anyone who can't read this. All queries in strict privacy

Furnished Tenants Association Tues. 8pm at Open contact Russ Moseley (683348)

Claimants Union Mon 8pm at Open

People-not-Psychiatry at Open Wed. 8pm

Housing Action Group Tues. at Open or contact Patrick Cohen, 29 Addison Rd Hove

Anti-Recruitment Campaign Contact TOM. (684256)

Marina Action Campaign research +activity against latest marina plans Contact Tessa Williams-Rear ground floor flat 6 Arundel Tce. (687793)

Working Assoc'n of Mothers baby-sitting, creche, coffee morn'gs Linda Kinsella (55134)

National Union of School Students Power to the classroom Contact Ben, 13 Prince Edwards Rd Lewes (2731)

Friends Centre, Ship St-wide range classes inc. planning (Tue. 7-30)-tel. 27835

Free room for Community Use, day or evening (+type-writer photocopier etc (days) -community info. Contact Chris Miller, Social Services Dept. 15 Princes St (29801 ext. 674) or write

TRADES COUNCIL: Keith Orange. 22, Whippingham rd

Womens Lib- Jen de Winter 154 Harbour Way, Shoreham (87-61680)

Brighton Society Environmental Group. Against bad planning on social and aesthetic grounds. Selma Montford 10, Clermont Rd (509209)

Pensioners & Trade Union Assoc'n-Keith Orange 22 Whippingham Rd

East Brighton Residents Assoc'n. Concerned with the kind of redevpt. that should be carried out in Whitehawk-G. Andrews 8 Twineham Rd (687715)

BFT. Support Your Local (non-profit-making) Film Theatre

Centre for Investigation of Property Speculation (691712)

Pre-School Handicapped Kids & Mums Opportunity Group Tu. 1. 30-3. 30p.m. Mrs S. McCormick 44, Inwood Cres. (509431)

BRIGHTON MARINA WATCH COMM. Oscar Thompsett, 20 Ridgeside Ave, Patcham. (502103)

PRIOR HOUSE Carlton Hill - Youth and Community Centre many activities (681925)

LOVE BETWEEN WOMEN meets Thurs. 8p.m. to explore all aspects of love between women. Nicky - (686363)

FREE VET: P.D.S.A. 16, Oxford street (63606) Donations welcomed.

WHERE YOU CAN BUY THE VOICE.

KEMP TOWN.

BOOKS: 80b St James's Street.
LUMLEY'S: 146 Edward Street.
KEMP TOWN BOOKS: 91 St George's Road
ST. JAMES'S NEWSAGENTS: 91 St James's Street.
VERRALL'S: 105 Edward Street.

CENTRAL BRIGHTON.

ANANDA: 111 Gloucester Road.
ECCOTT'S: 52 Surrey Street.
GARDEN CAFE: 22 Trafalgar Street.
GARUDA'S: 17 Kensington Gardens.
INFINITY FOODS: 25 North Road.
OPEN CAFE: 7 Victoria Road.
STREET NEWS-STAND: N.E. corner Churchill Square.
SYMPOSIUM BOOKS: 12 Market Street.
WILSON'S: 17 Prince Albert Street.
WOOD'S: 29 Trafalgar Street.

NORTH BRIGHTON.

FRANKLIN'S: 93 Preston Drive.
GRIGG'S: 4 Clyde Road.
SCHOFIELD'S: 44 Lewes Road.
TOBIAS'S STORES: 167 Elm Grove.

WEST BRIGHTON AND HOVE.

CORDELL'S: 99 Western Road, Hove.
HIGGS': 3 Hove Street, Hove.
JAMES'S: 17 George Street, Hove.
PUBLIC HOUSE BOOKSHOP: 21 Little Preston Street
RUSSELL'S: 4 Westbourne Place (P.O.), Hove.

THREE ROOMS CAFE: 14 Blatchington Road, Hove.
TOWNS OF HOVE: 99 Church Road, Hove.

UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY BOOKSHOP: Main Counter.

The Voice is also being sold on the streets now. You should find a seller - who will sell you a copy and listen to your comments



groups/ gatherings **CONT.**

A. S. Neill Trust-local branch for alt. education projects (691712)

RANK & FILE I.S. Based group teachers within N. U. T. (735925).

UPPER NORTH STREET RESIDENTS. Robert Gregory 97 Upp. North St. (26749).

WHITEHAWK ACTION COMM. Brian Mitchell. (687792)

Transport 2000. for sane & integrated trans intergrated transport policy Kevin McNulty, 75 Uppr. Lewes Rd

politics

COMMUNIST PARTY BRIT MARXIST-LENINIST. meet 1st Fri. of month. (684404 for details).

ANDREW BOWDEN: TORY M. P. FOR KEMP TOWN.... If you wish to meet or contact - Tory H. Q. 51, Preston rd. (67747) Home - (62855)

LABOUR PARTY: Kemp Town 179, Lewes road (62592) Pavilion: 90 sedgewick road. (557944)

LIBERAL PARTY: Pav. Frances Hix, 143a Western rd. (26560) Office (27960).

B'TON PAV. & KEMP T'N LAB. PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS: Meet Tu. 8p. m. 179, Lewes rd. John Balance 54 Coleman st. (23996)

COMMUNIST PARTY: Sec: M. Chaplin, 83 Edburton Ave.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS The Sec. 33 Ventnor Villas, Hove.

National Union of School Students massive demo against cuts in Education expenditure. Assemble at 2 pm SAT. FEB 8th from West Pier to the level.

SUBJECT TO POLICE PERMISSION

BRIT. SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOC. (62794).

ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP Adrian King 60b Trafalgar Rd, Portslade.

The Voice needs more people on the collective. Why not help produce as well as read the paper?

POVERTY HARDSHIP BUT HAPPINESS THOSE WERE THE DAYS 1903-1917 64 pp. 25 pence.

This small booklet is a product of the movement to get working class people, particularly those to whom writing comes hard, to put down their own stories and opinions. It started some years ago in Hackney, London, where it's success has led to a considerable publishing venture owned by the community called Centreprise. The movement is important not just to historians, but, much more importantly, it is of real interest to working class people who can recognize themselves in such books, thus generating a sense of pride in their own culture and history.

The working class suffers a lot of stereotyping. The right sees them as lazy unmotivated "hands", and the left as potential revolutionaries. The Colour Supplements see them as smiling clean-cut Consumers. But Albert Paul shows a very different picture. What comes across strongest is an astonishing sense of cohesion, of a help-the-neighbour spirit, coupled with a fierce sense of independence from the rest of society. Compared to today's telly and pre-packaged-food world, these people made their own entertainment and pleasures and looked after one another to a degree that makes you think that we are moving away from not towards socialist ideals. People used to own the streets-they were central to their existence-street parties were common. Today, the car owns the street, gossipers have been banished, and the last street party in Brighton resulted in 14 arrests, in St. Michael's Place.

On the other hand, Mr Paul too often sounds grateful for the crumbs of charity. There is no feeling of anger, reproach, even understanding of the society which was condemning him to poverty. One can't help wondering what would happen in a real slump when the

going gets really tough. How long would the happy cooperation last?

Nevertheless, this is a very interesting book, well produced and with a good selection of photos. Others have found that out already, for by the time you read this the first printing will be sold out. Most of all we hope this example leads others to write their stories too. Two in Queen's Park already are.



Open Cafe open Sun. too 12-8
Sussex Whole Earth Group. B'ton
Sec. Alistair Nesbett, 54 Queens
Park Rd.

C. H. E. (Campaign for Homosexual Equality) Marlborough Hotel (Attic room), Princes St. B'ton, 2nd & 4th Tues. each month, 8-30pm. Contact Graham Wilkinson. 3a Montpelier Villas, B'ton or Brian Hart: B'ton 28356

Sussex Gay Lib. Front (SGLF) meet at same hotel 1st & 3rd Tues-same room & time. Any 5th Tuesdays alternate CHE & SGLF SGLF discos 1st Friday in month 20p 8-11pm, occ. extension-12pm. First Floor Hall.

Womens 'Centre-Open daily, 79 Buckingham rd. B'ton. (27612) come for company, help, classes, playgroup, creche facilities.

Womens 'International League for peace and freedom. A series of seminars on economics to help us understand inflation, growth, exploitation. Tues. 10-30am. @Women's Centre. All women welcome.

Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding 12, Berkeley Row, Lewes. (2414) Talk: 'Education in China' by Patrick Daly, Sat. 25th Jan. @ 7-30pm Friends Centre, Ship St. Two films 'Young people go to the countryside.' + 'The cock crows at midnight' (childrens 'film)

SUPPORT CLAP (Community Levy for Alternative Projects) Details in Clap catalogue. Send your Clap Tax to: BIT 146, Great Western Rd. W. 11.

Research

Research-VOICE groups are examining the problems, needs, characteristics of Montpelier/Kemp Town/Whitehawk for features as that on Preston Area (No. 20) Anyone/everyone invited to submit material
WRITE TO BRIGHTON VOICE 7 VICTORIA RD.
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